His Majesties
GRACIOUS
SPEECH
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
On *Munday* the 28th of *January*, 167$\frac{7}{8}$.

Published by His Majesties Command.

LONDON,
Printed by *John Bill*, *Christopher Barker*, *Thomas Newcomb* and *Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 167$\frac{7}{8}$.

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To both Houses of

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On *Munday* the 28th of *January*, 167½.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

When We parted last, I told you, That before We met again, I would doe that which should be to your Satisfaction; I have accordingly made such Alliances with *Holland*, as are for the Preservation of *Flanders*, and which can-

not fail of that End, unleſs prevented either by the want of due Aſſiſtances to Support thoſe Alliances, or by the ſmall regard the *Spaniards* themſelves muſt have to their own Preſervation.

The firſt of theſe I cannot ſuſpect, by reaſon of your repeated Engagements to maintain them; and I know you are ſo wiſe, as to conſider, That a War, which muſt be the neceſſary Conſequence of them, ought neither to be proſecuted by Halves, nor to want ſuch Aſſurances of Perſeverance as may give Me Encouragement to purſue it; beſides, it will not be leſs neceſſary, to let Our Enemies have ſuch a Proſpect of Our Reſolutions, as may let them ſee certainly, That We ſhall not be weary of Our Arms, till *Chriſtendom* be reſtored to ſuch a Peace, as ſhall not be in the Power of any Prince alone to Diſturb.

I do acknowledge to you, That I have uſed all the Means poſſible, by a Mediation, to have procured an

an Honourable and Safe Peace for *Christendom*; knowing how preferable such a Peace would have been to any War, and especially to this Kingdom, which must necessarily own the vast Benefits it has received by Peace, whilst its Neighbours onely have yet smarted by the War: But finding it no longer to be hoped for by fair means, it shall not be My fault if that be not obtained by Force, which cannot be had other ways.

For this Reason I have recalled My Troops from *France*, and have consider'd, That although the *Dutch* shall do their parts, We cannot have less on Ours, then Ninety Sail of Capital Ships constantly maintained; nor less then Thirty or Fourty thousand Landmen, (with their Dependencies) to be employed upon Our Fleets, and elsewhere. And because there shall be no fear of Mis-employing what you shall give to these Uses, I am contented that such Money

be appropriated to those Ends, as strictly as you can desire. I have given Testimony enough of My Care in that kind, by the Progress I have made in Building the New Ships, wherein, for the making them more useful, I have Directed such larger Dimensions, as will cost Me above One hundred thousand pounds more then the Act allows. I have gone as far as I could in Repairing the Old Fleet, and in Buying of Necessary Stores for the Navy, and Ordnance; And in this and other Provisions, for better Securing both My Foreign Plantations, and the Islands nearer home, I have expended a great deal more then the Two hundred thousand pounds you enabled Me to Borrow upon the Excise, although I have not found such a Credit as I expected upon that Security. I have born the Charge both of a Rebellion in *Virginia*, and a new War with *Algiers*: I stand Engaged to the Prince of *Orange* for My Nieces Portion;

and

and I ſhall not be able to Maintain My conſtant neceſſary Eſtabliſhments, unleſs the New Impoſt upon Wines, *&c.* be continued to Me, which would otherwiſe turn only to their Profit, to whom We leaſt intend it.

I hope theſe things will need little Recommendation to you, when you conſider your Promiſes in ſome, and the Neceſſity of the reſt; and to let you ſee, that I have not onely employed My Time and Treaſure for your Safety, but done all I could to remove all ſorts of Jealouſies; I have married My Niece to the Prince of *Orange*, by which I hope I have given full Aſſurances that I ſhall never ſuffer his Intereſt to be ruined, if I can be Aſſiſted, as I ought to be, to preſerve them.

Having done all this, I expect from you a plentiful Supply, ſuitable to ſuch great Occaſions, whereon depends not onely the Honour, but (for ought I know) the Be-

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ing of an English Nation, which will not be saved by finding faults afterwards, but may be prevented by avoiding the chief Fault of doing weakly and by halves, what can onely be hoped from a vigorous and through prosecution of what We undertake.

These considerations are of the greatest Importance that ever concerned this Kingdom; and therefore I would have you enter immediately upon them, without suffering any other Business whatsoever to divert you from bringing them to good Resolutions.

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